Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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TAGS: PFOR,EG,IS,UR,US,XF

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON BREAKDOWN OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET PRESS (MARCH 24) PROMINENTLY REPORTS STATEMENTS BY EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY AND DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ABOUT THE END OF THE SECRETARY'S SHUTTLE, BUT MAKES NO DIRECT COMMENT ABOUT THE COLLAPSE OF THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS.END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA (MARCH 24) CARRIES TWO TASS ARTICLES ON THE END OF THE SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST MISSION. CARIO-DATELINED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STORY--THE MAJOR ITEM--REPLAYS FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY'S

STATEMENT CALLING FOR CONVOCATION OF THE MEPC AND CHARGING ISRAEL WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS. TASS QUOTES FAHMY THAT "THE AMERICAN POLICY OF A STEPBY-STEP SETTLEMENT HAS FAILED" AND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE MSUT BE RECONVENED. ACCORDING TO TASS, FAHMY SAID EGYPT WILL CONSULT WITH ARAB COUNTIRES AND THE PLO AND IMMEDIATELY WILL PROPOSE TO THE MEPC'S TWO CO-CHAIRMEN THAT THE CONFERENCE BE CONVENED.

- 3. TASS GOES ON TO CITE FAHMY'S CHARGE THAT NEGOTIATIONS FAILED BECAUSE ISRAEL "FROM THE VERY BEGINNING" INSSISTED ON POINTS LINKED TO A FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT. FAHMY IS QUOTED THAT EGYPT WILL NOT END THE STATE OF WAR PRIOR TO A FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND "FORMATION OF AN ARAB PALESTINIAN STATE." TASS ALSO REPORTS THAT FAHMY STRESSED EGYPT HAS AFFIRMED "IN WRITING"THAT IN CASE ISRAEL ATTACKS SYRIA, EGYPT WILL "IMMEDIATELY FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS" TO THE SYRIANS.
- 4. SEPARATE WASHINGTON-DATELINED TASS ARTICLE BRIEFLY SUMMARIZES THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT THAT THE SECRETARY IS SUSPENDING HIS CURRENT EFFORTS AND IS RETURNING TO WASHINGTON TO REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT. SPOKESMAN, TASS NOTES, SAID THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PARITES "ON A NUMBER OF KEY ISSUES" TURNED OUT TO BE IRRECONCILABLE.
- 5. COMMENT. WE SUSPECT ABSENCE OF ANY SOVIET COMMENT ON THE SUSPENSION OF THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS REFLECTS FACT THAT SOVIET MEDIA HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED ANY CLEAR GUIDANCE ABOUT HOW TO PLAY THE BREAKDOWN OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS. RETICENCE MAY ALSO INDICATE THAT SOVIETS ARE NOT YET CERTAIN ABOUT HOW THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL AFFECT THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND THE INTENSIONS OF THE PARTIES VIS-A-VIS GENEVA OR OTHER POSSIBLE FUTURE STEPS.

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Message Attributes

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